

orienting said PCI bridge board substantially parallel to the PCI chassis.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 14-19 have been amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Granau et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,848,252 (hereinafter “Granau”). Granau discloses a gateway controller for facilitating the exchange of information between PCI buses. (See Abstract).

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a plurality of PCI segments are electrically coupled by a bridge board (card) spanning PCI cards coupled to each PCI segment. Claims 1 and 14-19 have been rewritten to further bring out this feature of the present invention. No new matter has been added. (See page 10, line 14 to page 11, line 12).

Examiner states, in regards to claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 14, that Granau discloses the invention as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that Granau fails to teach or suggest in a system including a plurality of PCI segments, with each said PCI segment comprising one or more PCI cards mounted in slots on a PCI chassis, a bridge for electrically coupling PCI segments, said bridge comprising: a board; and a plurality of connectors mounted on said board for electrically connecting said board to *a PCI card of a first PCI segment and a PCI card of a second PCI segment* on a backplane of the PCI chassis. (As Amended).

Applicant respectfully submits that Granau provides a pair of printed wiring boards 201,203 or a single printed wiring board 301 that acts as a bridge between the PCI buses 101,103. As explained in the application, it is undesirable to 'tie up' card slots with cards devoted to bridging PCI segments (as is done in Granau 201,203,301) (See application page 3, line 18 to page 4, line 4). The present invention overcomes this problem in one embodiment by providing a bridge board(card) that utilizes the unused connectors of functioning transition cards to connect the *cards* (bridging the PCI segments). The transition cards are still utilized for their original purpose, and thus, no card slots are 'tied up' or wasted.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore that claims 2-9 and 15-18 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Based on the amendments and arguments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Granau. As stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 5 are allowable as depending from allowable base claim 1.

CONCLUSION

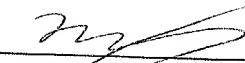
For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

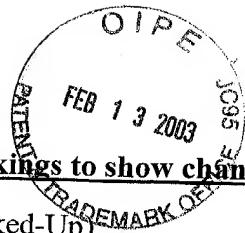
Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON

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Version with markings to show changes made ("Marked-Up" Version):
Specification (Marked-Up):

A "marked-up" version of the 1st full paragraph on page three of the specification follows:

The CPCI standards are primarily directed at configurations of PCI segments mounted in a chassis. Each PCI segment may contain up to 8 slots for individual cards. However, the same standards define chassis dimensions with the capacity for 21 slots. As a result of this difference between the maximum number of PCI cards in a PCI segment and the size of an off-the-shelf CPCI chassis, many embodiments of CPCI hardware do not fully utilize the chassis space. That is, they may use 8 slots for PCI cards and either leave the remaining spacer in the chassis unused, or use the space for non-PCI purposes.

Claims (Marked-Up):

A "marked-up" version of each claim follows:

1. (Amended) In a system including a plurality of PCI segments, with each said PCI segment comprising one or more PCI cards mounted in slots on a PCI chassis, a bridge for electrically coupling PCI segments, said bridge comprising:

a board; and

a plurality of connectors mounted on said board for electrically connecting said board to a PCI card of a first PCI segment and a PCI card of a second PCI segment on a backplane of the PCI chassis.

14. (Amended) A method of bridging a plurality of PCI segments mounted on a PCI chassis without occupying a front side slot of said PCI chassis, comprising:

connecting a first PCI segment slot card and a second PCI segment slot card with a first PCI bridge eardboard; and

locating said PCI bridge eard-board along a backplane.

15. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
mounting said PCI bridge eard-board in a notch between the PCI chassis and a transition card.

16. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
connecting a second PCI segment slot card and a third PCI segment slot card with a second PCI bridge eardboard; and
locating said PCI bridge eard-board along said backplane.

17. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 16, wherein:
bridging said first, said second, and said third PCI segments with said first and said second PCI bridge eards-boards is performed with a transparent bridge.

18. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 16, wherein:
bridging said first, said second, and said third PCI segments with said first and said second PCI bridge eards-boards is performed with a non-transparent bridge.

19. (Amended) A method of bridging PCI segments on a PCI chassis, comprising:
connecting a pair of adjacent PCI cards of adjacent PCI segments with a PCI bridge eard board across the Groups of P1 and P2 pins on the backplane of a pair of adjacent PCI slots; and
orienting said PCI bridge eard-board substantially parallel to the PCI chassis .